future trends of Water Resources Development in the Peninsular region.

(c) and (d) Studies regarding water availability and demands in the various river basins including west flowing rivers in Kerala, which will lead to conclusions about quantum of surplus water available for transfer to deficit areas are expected to be completed in the 8th Plan.

Restoration of concessions to powerlooms

859. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government have requested the Government of India to order to fresh look at the new textile policy and restore the concessions to powerlooms; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and action taken by the Central Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra have suggested that the differential concessions in excise duty, which the powerloom sector enjoyed prior to the Budget of 1985-86, should be restored and powerlooms in decentralised sector should not be treated on par with powerlooms in the mill sector.

This matter has been considered and it is felt that the healthy development of powerloom sector should take place in the context of parity between powerlooms in organised mill sector and in unorganised powerloom sector.

Problems of Handloom Sector in Maharashtra

960. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government have written to the Government of India about the problems of the handloom sector in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the response of the Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) Government of Maharashtra have written to the Government of India suggesting that the rate of subsidy on the production of Janata Cloth should be increased from Rs. 2 per square metre to Rs. 3 per square metre A proposal for increasing the rate of Janata subsidy is under consideration of Central Government.

Crisis in Powerloom Industry of Maharashtra

861. SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 50 per cent powerlooms in the country are located in Maharashtra;

(b) whether on account of withdrawals of concessions and treatment of powerlooms on a par with composite mills coupled with a hike in the price of yarn powerlooms have been affected and more than 50 per cent of powerlooms in Maharashtra are facing closure; and

(c) if so, what steps the Central Government propose to take to help the powerlooms industry from closing down?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Maharashtra accounts for roughly 35 per cent of the total number of powerlooms for which applications for registration have been filed.

(b) and (c) The levels of weaving activity in the decentralised power-